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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO

THE FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY FOR

THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1952.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO
THE FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st., 1952.

To:-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1952. It is made in accordance with the Regulations of the Ministry of Health which prescribe the duties of the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year I have paid one hundred and forty-eight (148) visits to vessels of various nationalities for the purpose of inspection, but mainly for sickness on board, or for the issuing of pratique.

There was only one notifiable Infectious Disease, that of Poliomyelitis. Seventy-eight (78) other cases of sickness or injury were landed during the year and admitted to the Falmouth and District Hospital and the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

The staffs of these Hospitals are extremely helpful in admitting cases immediately in spite of pressure of work and shortage of beds.

The number of cases of venereal disease has dropped considerably.

The number of deratting certificates issued during the year totalled ninety-eight (98); Ninety-two (92) being deratting exemption certificates.

The vessels lying up in the River Fal are periodically inspected, no complaint having been found with regard to the sanitary conditions.

The following details are mainly in tabulated form, and represent the work carried out by this Authority.

To:-

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1932. It is

made in accordance with the Regulations of the Ministry of
Health which prescribe the duties of the Medical Officer of
Health.

During the year I have paid one hundred and forty-eight
(148) visits to vessels of various nationalities for the purpose
of inspection, but mainly for sickness on board, or for the issue
of certificates.

There was only one notifiable infectious disease, that
of Polio-myelitis. Seventy-eight (78) other cases of sickness on
board were landed during the year and admitted to the Porthcove
and District Hospital and the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.
The staffs of these hospitals are extremely helpful in
admitting cases immediately in spite of pressure of work and
shortage of beds.

The number of cases of venereal disease has dropped
considerably.

The number of detaching certificates issued during
the year totalled ninety-eight (98), thirty-two (32) being
detaching exemption certificates.
The vessels lying up in the River Fal are periodically
inspected, no complaint having been found with regard to the
sanitary conditions.

The following details are
and represent the work carried out by this Authority.



I am pleased to report during the past year on the conscientious and painstaking work by your Sanitary Inspector, who is of great assistance to me by reporting any unusual occurrence on his routine inspection of vessels.

We have been helped considerably by the co-operation of Ships Masters and their Officers and by the various shipping agents.

There is a happy atmosphere in the Port with all concerned in the efficient carrying out of the various duties in all departments.

The Officers of H.M.Customs are always ready to help in reporting immediately any doubtful arrival. Here I would like to convey my appreciation of their co-operation.

Mr.Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I am, your obedient Servant,

A.CECIL DICK

I. STAFF

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
D. HALL	Clerk	21 February, 1952	-	-
J. W. MORTON	Treasurer	28 December, 1951	-	Manager, Lloyds Bank, Falmouth.
A. C. DICK	Port Medical Officer of Health	2 February, 1945	M.R.C.S. Eng. L.R.C.P. Lond.	-
G. E. WRIGHT	Deputy Port Medical Officer of Health	1 January, 1951	M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch.	-
F. J. JACKETT	Port Sanitary Inspector	1 October, 1940	Cert. R. San. I.	-

Address and telephone number of)
the Medical Officer of Health)

"Lerryn", Emslie Road, Falmouth.
Tel. Falmouth 226.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health					
E. JACKSON	Inspector	1 Oct 1925	Cent. J. Smith		
G. B. WHITNEY	Deputy Port Medical Officer of Health	1 Jan 1925	H. E. M. B.		
A. C. DICK	Port Medical Officer	5 Feb 1925	L. H. G. J. Jones		
E. W. MORTON	Treasurer	28 Dec 1925			Manager, Liverpool
D. HALL	Clerk	21 Feb 1925			
Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments	

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II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	484	1,056,884	144	384	-
Coastwise	882	1,339,831	4	735	1
Total	1,366	2,396,715	148	1,119	1

III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic ...	(Number of passengers INWARDS	Nil
	(Number of passengers OUTWARDS	Nil
Cargo Traffic ...	(Principal IMPORTS	General Cargo, including
	(food produce, coal,
	(cement, timber, oil and
	(petroleum spirit.
	(Principal EXPORTS	None

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive

Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Brest, Bremen, Bona, Bayonne, Bergen, Caen, Copenhagen, Casablanca, Cherbourg, Chenanes, Cuba, Calzar, Carapito, Curacao, Cuxhaven, Dunkirk, Dieppe, Danzig, Donges, Drobak, Emden, Fecamp, Flushing, Freetown, Ghent, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Hernosand, Helsingborg, Houston, Halifax, Le Havre, La Rochelle, Liesund, Les Romana, Leghorn, Lisbon, Malmo, Madeira, Newport News, Norfolk, Oslo, Port Said, Palermo, Port Arthur, Paris, Quebec, Rouen, Rotterdam, St.Malo, Stockholm, Santiago, St.Johns, Sorel, Singapore, Trinidad, Texas City, Tonsberg, Tripoli, Valetta, Vancouver, Vigo, Ymuiden.

IV. INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no Barge traffic in the Port.

V. WATER SUPPLY

Source of supply.

- (a) The district - The drinking water of the district is obtained from the Falmouth Corporation's reservoirs in the Parishes of Budock and Mabe.
- (b) Shipping - As for the district. Water from the district supply is available alongside and is delivered to shipping afloat

Reports of tests for contamination.

Samples are taken regularly by the Falmouth Corporation and tested by the Public Analyst.

Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

The Authority have no jurisdiction over shore premises or equipment.

Vessels are supplied with fresh water from the Falmouth Corporation's Water-boat and from hydrants on the quayside.

Hydrants and hosepipes are thoroughly flushed out before water is discharged into the water-boat or into ships' water storage tanks.

Number and Sanitary Condition of water-boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There is one water-boat operating in the port. This is owned by the Falmouth Corporation, is of modern construction and is in excellent sanitary condition. The vessel is periodically inspected. Control of the water-boat in so far as any statutory nuisance might exist thereon would be dealt with under Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936, which has been applied to the Joint Board.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

List of Infected Areas.

The list of infected areas is prepared from information supplied by the Ministry of Health in the Weekly Record of Quarantinable Diseases.

The lists are typed and copies supplied by hand to H.M.Customs Waterguard, H.M.Immigration Officer and the Pilots.

Whenever areas are removed from the list those concerned are notified of the deletions which should be made. In the event of further infected areas being added, a completely new list of infected areas is supplied.

Radio Messages

The Port is not a radio transmitting port. Radio telegrams from Masters of vessels are received principally from the Land's End Radio Station, via the General Post Office at Falmouth.

Notification otherwise than by Radio

Information about ships which require the attention of the Port Medical Officer is telephoned by H.M.Customs Waterguard Officers to the Port Medical Officer.

Mooring Stations

A mooring station has been established in the Dock area alongside No.7 Wharf and outside the Dock area alongside a buoy at St.Just Pool.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

All cases of infectious diseases, other than smallpox, can be admitted to the County Isolation Hospital at Truro.

Surveillance and follow up of contacts

Notices are sent to Medical Officers of the Districts concerned when contacts leave the Port. Prepaid Reply Cards are issued in certain cases on which contacts are required to notify any further changes of address. Contacts remaining within the Port District are under the supervision of the Port Medical Officer during the period of surveillance.

Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles

All ships quarters which have been occupied by cases or suspected cases of infectious disease are disinfected by the Port Sanitary Inspector.

The disinfection of persons, clothing and other articles is carried out at the County Isolation Hospital at Truro.

VII. SMALLPOX

All cases or suspected cases of smallpox may be sent to Lee Mill Hospital, Near Ivybridge, Devon.

Ambulances for the transport of such cases would be supplied by the Cornwall County Council who are also responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crew.

The smallpox consultants available are -

Dr.D.F.Johnstone,
The Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.
(Tel. Plymouth 4311 and 61437)

Dr.W.A.Lister,
7, The Crescent, Plymouth.

Specimens for laboratory diagnosis would be sent to The Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9. (Tel. Colindale 7041).

VIII. VENEREAL DISEASE

Cases of Venereal Disease are treated at the Old Isolation Hospital at Kergilliack by Dr.E.Tinkler, the County Venerealogist. Clinics are held for in-patients and ambulants as follows -

Tuesday 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	Acute Polio-myelitis	1	-	1

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No case of Malaria has been observed during the past year.

XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No ships infected with or suspected for plague have arrived during the past year.

XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS
FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Procedure for inspection of ships for rats

All ships arriving from foreign ports are inspected by the Port Sanitary Inspector and a thorough search is made for indications of rodent infestation. Where indications of rodent infestation are found traps are set and in cases where the deratting certificate has expired and indications of rodent infestation are found, the vessel is ordered to be fumigated.

Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rodents

Arrangements have been made for the bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents at the Royal Infirmary, Pathological Department, Truro.

No rodents have been sent for examination during the year.

Arrangements for deratting ships and methods used

Deratting of ships is carried out entirely by fumigation by hydrogen cyanide. The work is carried out by a commercial contractor, Fumigation Services Ltd. of London.

Progress in the rat proofing of ships

Ship builders are now giving a good deal of attention to rat proofing and most new vessels are found to be largely rat proof. Advice is given from time to time when rat proofing is not satisfactory.

TABLE E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS
FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category	Number
Black rats	-
Brown rats	53
Sent for examination	-
Infected with plague	-

548 rats were caught and destroyed on wharves

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED
DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates issued
HCN	After fumigation with Other fumigant (state method)	After trapping	After poisoning	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	-	-	-	6	92	98

XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices Served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General Inspections	746	Nil	-
Re-Visits	373	Nil	-
Total	1,119	Nil	

XIV. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH)
REGULATIONS 1934 and 1948

Oyster beds have been laid down in the Helford River, the Penryn River, the Truro River and the Percuil River. There is no risk of pollution in the Helford River but there is a definite risk of pollution by sewage and surface drainage in the Penryn and Truro Rivers. Oysters taken from these two rivers are laid down elsewhere for cleansing purposes. There is some risk of sewage and surface water pollution in the Percuil River, but every precaution is taken to obviate the risk.

The majority of oysters taken from the Port are marketed in London.

No samples have been examined during the year.

XV. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

Falmouth is an approved Port under the Aliens Order for the landing of Aliens but no Officer of the Authority holds a Warrant of Appointment as a Medical Inspector of Aliens.

XVI. MISCELLANEOUS

No case of death on board ship from infectious disease has occurred for many years, but in the event of such death the Authority would endeavour to secure cremation. The nearest Crematorium is at Plymouth but arrangements are being made for the establishment of a Crematorium at Truro.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mr.Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1952.

SHIP INSPECTION

Vessels entering the port are visited as soon as possible after docking and enquiries made concerning the health of the crew, the occurrence of any sickness during the voyage, the source of the water supply, the condition of tanks and bilges and the presence of animals or parrots on board. The deratting or deratting exemption certificate is inspected and if found to be in order the inspector, accompanied by a ship's officer, proceeds to the examination of the sanitary condition of the vessel, pointing out any defects or nuisances and suggesting the remedy to be adopted. The majority of the shipping companies are always ready and willing to remedy any nuisance or defects which have been brought to their notice by the Inspector. Serious defects to structure and defects of original construction are reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyor.

During the year 1,119 vessels were inspected. It was not necessary to serve any statutory notices with regard to these vessels. Verbal and informal notices were given, as a result of which all the nuisances and defects were remedied before the vessels left the port again. 2,117 re-visits were made to vessels in connection with nuisance and defects, rat destruction etc.

Nuisances and Defects

Dirt vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health accounted for 53, and structural defects caused through wear and

tear 489 of the total found.

Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health

Dirty and verminous crews' quarters, foul water closets, choked scuppers, dirty food lockers, and accumulations of refuse accounted for the majority of the nuisances under this heading, and most of these conditions could have been avoided by the exercise of more care and stricter supervision of the crews.

A steadily increasing number of vessels are carrying and using insecticides during their voyage and this practice has undoubtedly been the prime factor in a great reduction in the number of verminous vessels and rooms found during the past year.

When vessels were heavily infected with vermin, disinfection was carried out by means of pressure spraying with 4-cide or Deodor-X, or fumigation with hydrogen cyanide. Slight infestations were dealt with by dismantling bunks and fittings, using a blow-lamp and by hand spraying with a liquid insecticide into all crevices.

Structural Defects caused through wear and tear

Defective port frames, linings and broken glasses, defective heating apparatus, bunks, water closets, lockers and leaky decks were responsible for the greater number of this type of defect and many of these conditions were caused by misuse and lack of attention. Other defects dealt with were defective water heaters, showers, entrance doors, water service pipes, floors, unsheathed ventilators and leaky skylights.

FOOD INSPECTION

No imported foodstuffs are discharged within the Port Health District. Food on vessels intended for ships'

provisions are inspected by Officers of the Ministry of Transport. The only food coming under the Authority's notice is food intended for ships' provisions and temporarily landed into store while a vessel is undergoing repairs. During the year 1,254 lbs. of ships' provisions lying in store have been voluntarily surrendered as unfit and either destroyed or disposed of for purposes other than human consumption.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK JACKETT

Port Sanitary Inspector

provisions are imported by Officers of the Ministry
of Transport. The only food coming under the authority's
notice is food intended for ships' provisions and temporarily
landed into store while a vessel is undergoing repairs.
During the year 1,234 lbs. of ships' provisions lying in
store have been voluntarily surrendered as unfit and
either destroyed or disposed of for purposes other than human
consumption.

I am, Sir, Sir, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK JACKETT

Port Sanitary Inspector

